

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 7-14, 17-24, 27-33, 36-45 are pending, with claims 1, 20, and 39 being independent. Claims 40-45 are new. Claims 4, 6, 15, 16, 25, 34, and 35 are cancelled.

Claims 1-3, 7-14, 17-24, 27-33, 39 are rejected under 35 USC. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 7,133,898 (Malik) in view of U.S. Patent Publication 2004/0243844(Adkins). Applicant respectfully requests that these rejections be withdrawn because Malik and Adkins, either alone or in combination, fail to describe or suggest all the features recited in independent claims 1, 20, and 39, as amended. For instance, neither Malik nor Adkins describe or suggest: (1) detecting one or more actions performed by the user on the received one or more e-mails from the entity; and (2)determining the entity is associated with the user, based, at least in part, on the detected actions performed by the user on the received one or more e-mails that support an inference that the entity is associated with the user, as recited in independent claim 1.

The Office Action acknowledges that Malik does not describe “determining that an entity is associated with the user based on … actions related to e-mail communications with the entity”. *See, page 3 of the Office Action.* For similar revisions, Malik does not describe or suggest the above noted feature recited in claim1. The Office Action relies on Adkins for disclosing determining that an entity is associated with the user based on actions related to e-mail communication with the entity. Even if this is true, which the Applicant does not concede, Adkins fails to disclose the above-noted features recited in claim 1.

Adkins is directed to maintaining an inclusive address book for a list email senders. A sender is added to the inclusive list if a message sent by the sender passes some message filters. A sender can also be added to the inclusive list if the sender timely replies to an acknowledge message from the user. *See, Adkins, Abstract, Fig. 1.* As such, whether a sender can make to the inclusive address book of the user/receiver, is determined by actions performed by the sender, such as sender sending a message that passes the filter; or the sender replying to an acknowledge message in a timely fashion. Adkin is focused on the sender, not the user/receiver.

Therefore, Adkins does not disclose (1) detecting one or more actions performed by the user on the received one or more e-mails from the entity; and (2)determining the entity is

associated with the user, based, at least in part, on the detected actions performed by the user on the received one or more e-mails that support an inference that the entity is associated with the user, as recited in independent claim 1..

Therefore, independent claim 1 as well as claims that depend from claim 1 are allowable over Malik in view of Adkin for at least the reasons above. Similarly, independent claims 20 and 39, as well as the claims that depend from them, recite features similar to independent claim 1 and should be allowable for the same reasons.

Conclusion

It is believed that all of the pending issues have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, objection, issue, or comment, including the Office Action's characterizations of the art, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue, or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment or cancellation of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment or cancellation. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the rejected claims in further prosecution of this or related applications.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required by this paper to Deposit Account No. 06-1050. The Director also is hereby authorized to apply any additional fees or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Applicant : Roy Ben-Yoseph
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Respectfully submitted,

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/Kevin E. Greene/

Kevin E. Greene
Reg. No. 46,031

Customer No. 26171

Fish & Richardson P.C.
1425 K Street, N.W.
11th Floor
Washington, DC 20005-3500
Telephone: (202) 783-5070
Facsimile: (877) 769-7945

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